

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : File

DATE: 12/13/73

FROM : SAC RALPH J. MILES

SUBJECT: CHARLES JERRY CRABTREE,
commonly known as Jerry Crabtree,
Sheriff of Madison County,
Huntsville, Alabama;
FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY GRADUATE;
ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT.

BACKGROUND DATA

The Birmingham Office currently has under investigation two gambling cases at Huntsville, Alabama. One is Birmingham file 165-45, Bureau file 165-1130, captioned [redacted]

The other is Birmingham file 165-68, Bureau file 165-1411, captioned [redacted]

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On 12/10/73, Captain [redacted] and Sergeant [redacted] and other members of the Alabama Department of Public Safety planned a raid on gamblers [redacted] and [redacted] at Huntsville. Prior to the raid they sought assistance from the Madison County Sheriff's Office at Huntsville. The [redacted] kids produced no results, not because [redacted] were not gambling, but apparently because they were tipped off prior to the raid.

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Birmingham file 1-294, Bureau file 1-8907, concerns JERRY CRABTREE, full name CHARLES JERRY CRABTREE, white male, born 10/23/33, at Huntsville, Alabama. This file shows that while CRABTREE was a Detective with the Huntsville, Alabama Police Department, he graduated from the 64th Session of the FBI National Academy 11/4/59, having been interviewed therefor and recommended by then Birmingham SAC CLARENCE M. KELLEY, now FBI Director. CRABTREE left the Huntsville Police Department

4 - 1-294 (CRABTREE)
1 - 80-69 (Madison County SO)
1 - 1-540 (Lt. [redacted])
1 - 80-234 ("Huntsville News" - LANKFORD)
2 - 165-45 [redacted]
2 - 165-68 [redacted]
RJM:mfl
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62-9657-8

Enclosure

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5010-108

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in 1962 to run for the office of Sheriff of Madison County; was defeated; and returned to the Huntsville Police Department. On 10/6/64, CRABTREE was suspended from the Huntsville Police Department by the Chief of Police for neglect of duty. At a meeting of the Huntsville City Council 10/4/64, the suspension was withdrawn and CRABTREE submitted his resignation. In 1966, CRABTREE ran for Sheriff of Madison County as a Republican and was elected and has been Sheriff of that county since. Relations between the Madison County Sheriff's Office and the Birmingham Office have been cordial.

ALLEGATION

On 12/12/73, Mr. THOMAS EARL LANKFORD, Editor and General Manager of the "Huntsville News," a Huntsville, Alabama daily newspaper, since about 1969, and formerly a reporter for "The Birmingham News," a Birmingham daily newspaper. telephoned Birmingham SAC RALPH J. MILES and [redacted]

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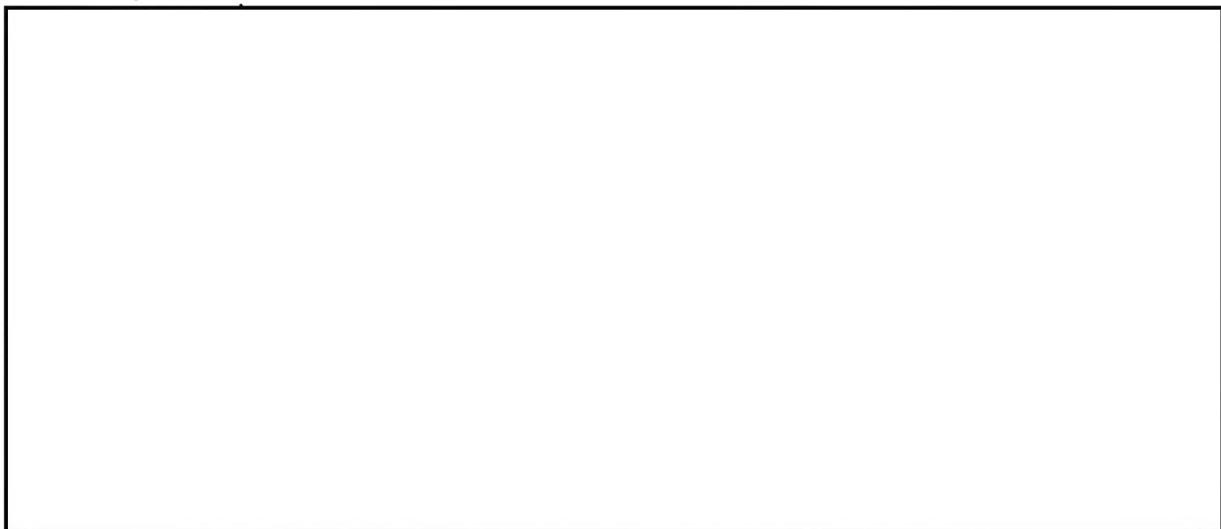
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LANKFORD was the subject of a UPUC case in 1964, Birmingham file 139-26, Bureau file 139-1990, which involved an allegation that while a reporter for "The Birmingham News" in 1964, LANKFORD tapped the telephone of a suspect in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. In that matter, the telephone company found no evidence of wire tapping and the case was closed.

LANKFORD was one of several subjects in Birmingham file 46-1731, Bureau file 46-60896.. In this case, THOMAS EARL LANKFORD and two other associates formed a corporation known as "Criminal Justice Systems, Incorporated," in order to do a research project to develop a State law enforcement plan for the Alabama Law Enforcement Planning Agency (ALEPA). The organization was incorporated on 6/15/70, and on the same date obtained a contract from ALEPA for their law enforcement plan for which the corporation was paid \$91,570.00. There was much controversy and publicity concerning this contract. An FAG - Conspiracy investigation was conducted in 1971 to determine if any collusion, kickbacks, or other irregularity existed in connection with this contract and its payment. The Alabama Attorney General filed a suit against the corporation to recover the \$91,570.00, but this suit was dropped when the defendants repaid \$20,000.00 and no State or Federal prosecution was ever undertaken.

The aforementioned gambling cases are being supervised by Birmingham ASAC HARLAN C. PHILLIPS who will hereafter add to this memorandum information relating to this matter which he has developed.

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The following leads should be considered:

1. SRA [REDACTED] or ASAC H. C. PHILLIPS, or both,
should, through SAC MILES, [REDACTED]
interview of Mr. THOMAS EARL LANKFORD concerning instant matter.

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3. Conduct any additional investigation as necessary.